

ORANGE COUNTY
Juvenile MIOCR Program (\$1,499,378 grant)

The Juvenile Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction program, which combines a therapeutic in-custody environment, comprehensive reentry planning and up to eight weeks of transitional community-based services, is expected to serve between 75 and 100 youth during the 18-month grant period.

The county is using a 60-bed stand-alone living unit within the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) to provide coordinated interventions addressing the youths' mental health, academic and delinquency issues. YLA is a non-secure co-ed treatment facility centrally located within Orange County. Mental Health clinicians will utilize a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model involving individual, group and family counseling. Rehabilitative programming includes Thinking for a Change, a cognitive restructuring and skill development program; anger management; drug and alcohol awareness; victim awareness; character and values education and development; social skills training; and gang intervention. Academic instruction, including special education as needed, incorporates Character Based Literacy and Guided Language Acquisition Development methodologies that promote English language acquisition, respect, character development and academic progress.

The program's efforts to increase family involvement in the youths' treatment and rehabilitation includes workshops and coaching sessions aimed at building/rebuilding parental authority as well as transportation and child care assistance as needed. Reentry planning begins upon admission to the facility and includes the family.

To help ensure a smooth transition into the community, the same deputy probation officers that work with the youths while in custody will continue supervision for up to six months after release. Additionally, the clinical treatment team will work with youths for up to eight weeks after release, coordinating with community-based providers to link youths and their families to mental health care, substance abuse, educational and vocational resources. To ensure that there is no gap in psychotropic medication compliance, the program can fund up to six months of prescription medications for youths transitioned into the community.

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